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On Tuesday, April 14, 2009, I attended one of the best sporting event games ever. This year the St. Louis Blues had made the Stanley Cup playoffs. It had been exactly five years since they had clinched a spot, ending up in sixth place in the Western Conference. This time around they would be facing off against the number three team; the Vancouver Canucks. It would be a tough battle, but I was hoping they would pull through.

We left around 5:00pm the night of the game, heading to Scottrade Center. There was a Cardinal game that night so we knew that it was going to be crowded in St. Louis. As we started nearing Union Station, where we usually park, I was getting excited because I had never been to a playoff game before. When we arrived at Union Station we started walking towards Scottrade Center. On the way there we saw a lot of Blues fans showing their spirit and pride for them. There were probably people from all over the state of Missouri to cheer them on. When we arrived at the building there was stage with people on it. This was the rally group that they held to pump up the fans. Even two Blues players came out for everyone to see. We finally went inside and I was ready for some excitement.

As we went through the gates we got "banger sticks" to use to cheer with at the game. Only the first 19,000 fans received them though. Let me tell you though, those things were a great hit. After we got our sticks we started walking to our seats. Halfway there we stopped at a store to see what they had. As I was looking, I found this shirt that I really wanted. I wanted to get it to remember that I actually went to a playoff game. So I asked my dad if I could get it, and he let me.

When we arrived at our seats it was very cool inside. We were in a row where nobody was in front of us, which I like. The game then started and the crowd was loud and cheering the whole entire time. At first we were losing 2-0, but that didn't stop us. We came back with two goals in the second period. During the second intermission, we went to go get food and I got a hotdog and soda. When we go back we were ready for the third period. As it was nearing the end of the game, it was all tied up 3-3. As a result of this we had to go into overtime. The first team that scored automatically won the game. I was so nervous that I could hardly sit still. When overtime was almost over, the Canucks scored a goal and the game was over. It was a disappointment because now we were kicked out of the playoffs and wouldn't advance. Everyone in the stands though applauded the team for doing a great effort and for actually making it there. When we walked back to Union Station it was really packed. It took us almost twenty minutes to get out. When we reached the highway that was an even bigger mess. There was an accident, so traffic was backed up for awhile.

It will always be something that I will remember for years to come. I've been to alot of Blues games, but this one was the best of them all. Even though we didn't win, I think they did good coming all the way from last place to placing sixth. It was great and I hope I get to experience this again in the future.

**Organization/Purpose: Score 3**

- The paper has a developed beginning, middle, and end
- The controlling idea “attending a St. Louis blues playoff game” is established and stays on topic
- The paper progresses in chronological order
- Cohesive devices are used between and within paragraphs “As we started nearing...”, “After we went through the gates...”

**Evidence/Elaboration: Score 3**

- The topic is developed using details and examples, “During the second intermission, we went to get food and I got a hotdog and soda.”
- There is some specific language: “As we went through the gates, we got ‘banger sticks’ to use to cheer with at the game.”
- The paper shows some individual perspective: “It would be a tough battle, but I was hoping they would pull through.”

**Conventions: Score 2**

- Effective use of alternating simple and complex sentence structures
- Few errors in punctuation and spelling
- The variety, severity, and density of the errors are few